

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11-13 and 15-17 are all the claims pending in the present application. In summary, the Examiner maintains the previous rejections and adds new arguments in the *Response to Arguments* section of the Office Action. Specifically, claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11-13 and 15-17 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ngo et al. (WO 00/04427) in view of Malkin et al. (EP 1 021 021) in view of Satou et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,076,519).

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant submits that none of the applied references, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests at least, “wherein respective ones of the plurality of service recipient devices determine whether said plurality of service recipient devices are operable to receive the service or not,” as recited in amended claim 1. The Examiner cites Satou as allegedly satisfying the feature “the system transmits a notifying message to said at least one of the plurality of service recipient devices prior to providing the service, to confirm whether said at least one of the plurality of service recipient devices is operable to receive the service or not,” as recited in claim 1. Satou teaches that a user makes the determination of whether a data transmission will be allowed or not. Differently, the above-quoted feature of amended claim 1 as set forth in the first sentence of this paragraph recites that respective ones of the plurality of service recipient devices make said determination. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the applied references, either alone or in combination, at least based on the foregoing reasons.

Applicant similarly amends independent claims 5, 9, 13 and 17, and submits that these claims are patentable at least based on reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to

claim 1. Applicant submits that dependent claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, and 16 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

Further, with respect to the respective features of dependent claims 3, 4, 7, 11, and 15, Applicant maintains the previously submitted arguments.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

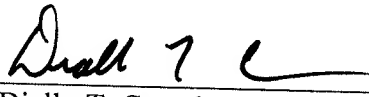
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